

Scripture  
Reading  
Isaiah  
53:1-6

**1 Who has believed our report? And to whom has the arm of the Lord been revealed?**

**2 For He shall grow up before Him as a tender plant, And as a root out of dry ground. He has no form or comeliness; And when we see Him, There is no beauty that we should desire Him.**

**3 He is despised and rejected by men, A Man of sorrows and acquainted with grief. And we hid, as it were, our faces from Him; He was despised, and we did not esteem Him.**

**4 Surely He has borne our griefs And carried our sorrows; Yet we esteemed Him stricken, Smitten by God, and afflicted.**

**5 But He was wounded for our transgressions, He was bruised for our iniquities; The chastisement for our peace was upon Him, And by His stripes 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.**

# The Nature of Atonement

By Heath Morris

# Would You Rather?

- Would you rather eat a poisonous cake or a poisonous cupcake?
- Would you rather only be able to whisper or only be able to shout everything you say?
- Would you rather have spaghetti for hair or marshmallows for hands?
- Would you rather always have a popcorn kernel stuck in your teeth or always have an itchy spot you can't reach?

# Definition of Atonement

- Reparation for an offense or injury
  - “The making of amends for a wrong one has done, by paying money to or otherwise helping those who have been wronged.”
- The reconciliation of God and humankind through the sacrificial death of Jesus Christ
  - “The restoration of friendly relations.”
- The exemplifying of human oneness with God
  - “The example of being unified or whole, though comprised of two or more parts.”

# Common Views: Penal Substitution

- Isaiah 53:4-6
  - “But He was wounded for our transgressions, He was bruised for our iniquities”
- 2 Corinthians 5:20-21
  - “ Him who knew no sin *to be* sin for us”
- 1 Peter 2:21-24
  - “bore our sins in His own body”
- Galatians 3:13-14
  - “having become a curse for us”

# Common Views: Penal Substitution

- Strengths:
  - It emphasizes God's justice and the necessity of Christ's sacrificial death.
  - The substitutionary aspect (Christ in place of sinners) is clearly presented in Scripture, especially in Isaiah 53:5-6 and 2 Corinthians 5:21.
- Worldly Challenges:
  - Some find it hard to reconcile the idea of a loving God inflicting such punishment on His Son.
  - This raises questions about why God couldn't simply forgive sin without requiring such a violent act.

# Common Views: Christ The Victor

- Colossians 2:11-15
  - “disarmed principalities and powers... triumphing over them”
- Hebrews 2:14-15
  - “destroy him who had the power of death”
- 1 Corinthians 15:55-57
  - “victory through our Lord Jesus Christ”
- Revelation 1:18
  - “I have the keys of Hades and of Death”

# Common Views: Christ The Victor

- Strengths:
  - It highlights the triumph of Christ and the cosmic scope of His work.
  - It underscores the power of the cross to defeat the forces of darkness, as described in Colossians 2:15.
- Worldly Challenges:
  - It can sometimes downplay the personal aspects of salvation (like forgiveness of sin)
  - It can also make it harder to see the necessity of Christ's death in relation to human sin.



# Common Views: Christ The Moral Influencer

- Romans 5:6-8
  - “while we were still sinners, Christ died for us.”
- John 3:16-17
  - “that the world through Him might be saved”
- 1 John 4:7-11
  - “if God so loved us, we also ought to love one another.”
- 2 Corinthians 5:14-15
  - “live no longer for themselves, but for Him who died”

# Common Views: Christ The Moral Influencer

- Ephesians 5:1-2
  - “And walk in love, as Christ also has loved us and given Himself for us”
- 1 John 3:16
  - “By this we know love, because He laid down His life for us”
- Philippians 2:5-8
  - “He humbled Himself and became obedient to the point of death”

# Common Views: Christ The Moral Influencer

- Strengths:
  - It highlights the deep, sacrificial love of God in sending His Son.
  - It emphasizes the transformation that should result from understanding Christ's love.
- Worldly Challenges:
  - It doesn't fully explain how Christ's death deals with the legal consequences of sin.
  - It can feel insufficient when it comes to explaining why Jesus had to die at all.

# Common Views: Ransom Theory

- Mark 10:41-45 and Matthew 20:24-28
  - “to give His life a ransom for many”
- 1 Timothy 2:5-7
  - “who gave Himself a ransom for all”
- Hebrews 9:11-15
  - “He is the Mediator of the new covenant, by means of death,”
- Revelation 5:8-10
  - “redeemed us to God by Your blood”
- 1 Peter 1:18-19
  - “you were not redeemed with [g]corruptible things, like silver or gold”

# Common Views: Ransom Theory

- Strengths:
  - It explains the sense of freedom that Christians experience in Christ.
  - It aligns with biblical imagery of captivity and deliverance.
- Worldly Challenges:
  - Who is the ransom paid to? Satan?
  - It difficult to reconcile the idea that God Himself is the one who needs to provide the ransom.

# Let Us Consider...

- The Mystery of Substitution - 1 Peter 3:18-22
  - “the just for the unjust”
- God’s Justice and Mercy - Romans 9:14-18
  - “He has mercy on whom He wills”
- Emotional Impact On Our Hearts - Luke 7:36-50
  - “she has washed My feet with her tears and wiped them with the hair of her head”

# Practical Impact of Atonement

- **Forgiveness and Reconciliation:**
  - Atonement ensures that believers are forgiven and reconciled to God, allowing them to live in restored relationship with their Creator.
- **Freedom from Sin:**
  - Through Christ's death, believers are freed from the power of sin and death. This affects how Christians view themselves, their identity, and their calling in the world.

# Practical Impact of Atonement

- The Call to Imitate Christ's Sacrifice:
  - Atonement serves as the supreme example of sacrificial love. Christians are called to live sacrificially for others, offering forgiveness, love, and service just as Christ did.
- Evangelism:
  - Atonement is the basis for evangelism—the message that Jesus has made a way for humanity to be reconciled to God is the good news Christians are called to proclaim to the world.



# Conclusion

- Hebrews 9:26-28
  - “He has appeared to put away sin by the sacrifice of Himself. “
- The Nature of Atonement
- Would You Rather?