

Christmas Redemption

Isaiah 53

*“Now after Jesus was born in Bethlehem of Judea in the days of Herod the king, behold, wise men from the east came to Jerusalem, saying, **“Where is he who has been born king of the Jews?** For we saw his star when it rose and have come to worship him.” (Matthew 2:1-3 [ESV](#))*

“Who is this King of glory? The LORD, strong and mighty, the LORD, mighty in battle! Lift up your heads, O gates! And lift them up, O ancient doors, that the King of glory may come in. Who is this King of glory? The LORD of hosts, he is the King of glory! Selah” (Psalm 24:8-10 [ESV](#))

Main Idea: The King voluntarily suffers on behalf of His people! This king does not suffer because some other more powerful king attacks Him. This king suffers because apart from His suffering, the people whom He loves will suffer forever without hope and without God.

The Cause of His Suffering

Our King suffered at the hands of sinful people.

Our King suffered at the hands of His own perfect Father.

Truth: If we are among those who embrace Jesus by faith, it is because of one cause . . . in mercy this King has made us see what we otherwise would have not seen.

Truth: The cross is necessary because our sin requires it. The King must suffer if His people are to be free.

“but your iniquities have made a separation between you and your God, and your sins have hidden his face from you so that he does not hear.” (Isaiah 59:2 [ESV](#))

Truth: God designs the birth of His King to confront the problem of sin within us.

The Accomplishment of His Suffering

Three accomplishments of the King's suffering

1. The completion of the punishment that our sin deserves. "upon Him was the punishment/chastisement for sin".
2. The establishment of peace between us and God. "that brought us peace"
3. The hope of deliverance from death in all its forms. "with His wounds we are healed".

Truth: God's King demonstrated His love most powerfully in taking all the sins of the world upon His shoulders and bearing them away from all who believe in Him.

Truth: Through the accomplishment of the King's suffering, God opens us door for guilty sinners to be justified.

Two applications:

1. The cross of Jesus frees us to enjoy God without fear of condemnation. God's righteous wrath against our sin is satisfied fully with the punishment for our sin in the death of Jesus on the cross.
2. The cross of Jesus frees us to love our brothers and sisters even though we sin against each other. We are united by our mutual experience of being washed by the blood of Jesus.

The Invitation of His Suffering

Truth: Jesus suffering gives Him freedom to invite sinners to His feast. No king ever suffered for his people like our king suffered for us.

"Seek the LORD while he may be found; call upon him while he is near; let the wicked forsake his way, and the unrighteous man his thoughts; let him return to the LORD, that he may have compassion on him, and to our God, for he will abundantly pardon." (Isaiah 55:6-7 [ESV](#))

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