**Isaiah 53:10-12 Yet it pleased the Lord to bruise Him; He has put Him to grief. When You make His soul an offering for sin, He shall see His seed, He shall prolong His days, And the pleasure of the Lord shall prosper in His hand. 11 He shall see the labor of His soul, and be satisfied. By His knowledge My righteous Servant shall justify many, For He shall bear their iniquities. 12 Therefore I will divide Him a portion with the great, And He shall divide the spoil with the strong, Because He poured out His soul unto death, And He was numbered with the transgressors, And He bore the sin of many, And made intercession for the transgressors.**

We’ll be finishing Isaiah 53 tonight by looking at verses 10-12. What we’ve seen in this scripture over the last few weeks is an extraordinary example of God’s omniscience and providence in history. He calls his servants by name, He raises country against country to accomplish His plan, He turns armies on themselves to protect His chosen people.

Man tends to take a very limited view when looking at our situation. It’s like looking to the stars through the wrong end of the telescope. We think about the current events and forget about the past, unless it’s to our benefit to look at the past. We make decisions that may not be best in the long term to avoid short term pain. We understand our situation and, perhaps, the situation of a few closest to us, but we really do not have any idea of the situations facing others. It’s inconvenient to get involved… what if it costs us more than a quick whispered prayer?

God takes no such limited view. His view is across all mankind, all history. His effort is not to make everyone happy, but to accomplish His will in Jesus. God used those before us to prepare the way. Likewise, He is using us to prepare the way still further.

Let’s look at verse 10 - **Yet it pleased the Lord to bruise Him; He has put Him to grief. When You make His soul an offering for sin, He shall see His seed, He shall prolong His days, And the pleasure of the Lord shall prosper in His hand.** The word used for pleased in this verse is the same word that was used in Matthew 3:17 - And suddenly a voice came from heaven, saying, “This is My beloved Son, in whom I am well pleased”. God is not taking pleasure in Jesus pain. He is taking pleasure in Jesus obedience, Jesus willingness to be crushed and suffer affliction so many might be saved. The grief can also be translated affliction – we talked about the affliction and sorrow that Jesus suffered all His days, particularly in His last day, at the hands of Herod, the Sadducees, Pilate, and the people. God is pleased that Jesus is making His soul an offering for sin – in the original language, this word for soul meant a living, breathing creature being offered up for sin. The one true Lamb of God offered, becoming sin, so we might become righteousness. He shall prolong His days. Luke 1:33 says And He will reign over the house of Jacob forever, and of His kingdom there will be no end. A Kingdom with no end certainly is a Kingdom of prolonged days. Then we finish the verse with the pleasure of the Lord – God’s loving approval of the work Jesus has done will prosper… move forward…the cause of the Kingdom of God.

Verse 11 **He shall see the labor of His soul, and be satisfied. By His knowledge My righteous Servant shall justify many, For He shall bear their iniquities.** He shall see the labor, the very grieving and travail of His soul. Luke 22:44 speaks of this agony in the Garden when we read - And being in agony, He prayed more earnestly. Then His sweat became like great drops of blood falling down to the ground. His soul is in travail! He is only hours from the Cross, His time has come. It shouldn’t be lost on us that Luke, the physician, writes of this. This is a condition that is found only in people who are under great stress! Called Hematohidrosis, the condition is caused when blood capillaries rupture and the blood mixes with the sweat. This gave Jesus and others a visible sign of the stress! How He labored in His soul for those who would later crucify Him with their sin. The verse continues that God’s Righteous One will justify many – just as John 6:38-40 tells us For I have come down from heaven, not to do My own will, but the will of Him who sent Me. 39 This is the will of the Father who sent Me, that of all He has given Me I should lose nothing, but should raise it up at the last day. 40 And this is the will of Him who sent Me, that everyone who sees the Son and believes in Him may have everlasting life; and I will raise him up at the last day.” And we know that He bore our perversities… our iniquities… becoming sin as 2 Corinthians 5:21 tells us. For He made Him who knew no sin to be sin for us, that we might become the righteousness of God in Him… Giving His life as a ransom for us, confirmed in Matthew 20:28 says, “just as the Son of Man did not come to be served, but to serve, and to give His life a ransom for many.”

**Verse 12 Therefore I will divide Him a portion with the great, And He shall divide the spoil with the strong, Because He poured out His soul unto death, And He was numbered with the transgressors, And He bore the sin of many, And made intercession for the transgressors.** He poured out His soul unto death. Psalm 22:14 says I am poured out like water, And all My bones are out of joint; My heart is like wax; It has melted within Me. Jesus poured Himself out Titus 3:6-7 whom He poured out on us abundantly through Jesus Christ our Savior, 7 that having been justified by His grace we should become heirs according to the hope of eternal life. Jesus made possible the pouring out of the Holy Spirit on our very souls through His work on the cross. In His crucifixion, He was numbered with the transgressors – Mark 15:27-28 With Him they also crucified two robbers, one on His right and the other on His left. 28 So the Scripture was fulfilled which says, “And He was numbered with the transgressors.” Sinless yet punished as a sinner. He was taken instead of Barabbas, who Luke 23:25 tells us was guilty of sedition and murder. How appropriate that a rebel and murderer is set free so Christ can be murdered by those rebelling against God! He bore the sin of many – Titus 2:14 who gave Himself for us, that He might redeem us from every lawless deed and purify for Himself His own special people, zealous for good works. Finally, Jesus made intercession for the transgressors – Luke 23:34 Then Jesus said, “Father, forgive them, for they do not know what they do.” And they divided His garments and cast lots. While His life was slipping from Him and His breath was squeezed from His chest… while they cast lots for His clothing and divided His garments… Jesus made intercession for the transgressors… forgive them Father for they know not what they do.

Isaiah 53 is a study in the promised Messiah. Jesus fulfilled very part of this. We can be assured that the Christ we serve is the Promised Christ that God foretold. It is so satisfying to be able to verify that which we believe. The evidence is there and it is ample! Those who do not believe do so only by choice. John 6:40 And this is the will of Him who sent Me, that everyone who sees the Son and believes in Him may have everlasting life; and I will raise him up at the last day. We walk by Faith and, in Faith, we see the Jesus of the Old Testament and we believe in Faith. John 20:29 Jesus said to him, “Thomas, because you have seen Me, you have believed. Blessed are those who have not seen and yet have believed.” It’s us here tonight that Jesus speaks of when He says this to Thomas.