

By His Wounds, A study of Isaiah 53  
The Hated and Rejected Jesus, Isaiah 53:3-4  
Exegetical and Supplementary Notes  
March 8, 2020  
Jeffrey Sippy

Isaiah 53:3-4 says that Jesus was despised and rejected by men. Jesus was a man from whom men hide their faces. He took our infirmities upon Himself and was stricken by God, smitten, and afflicted.

The hatred and rejection of Jesus is one of the most defining aspects of sin. Sin separates people from God and from each other. Sin manifests itself in hatred and rejection. One might also include bullying, emotional and mental abuse, divorce and a refusal to forgive and be reconciled. Jesus was hated and rejected because of the sin of mankind imposed upon Him.

When Adam and Eve sinned, separation entered the world. Adam and Eve were naked and afraid. They hid themselves from God. They were ashamed. Shame turns one's eyes inward and upon oneself.

Cain was jealous of his brother Abel (cf. Genesis 4). God said, "Sin is at your door and you must master it." Cain was to master his hatred. Cain was to master his jealousy and envy. Cain would never have said that he hated his brother. But when asked about Abel, Cain replied, "Am I my brother's keeper?"

God commands our love for our neighbor and even our enemy. Cain was his brother's keeper. Each person is the keeper of his brother and sister. Hatred and rejection keep people keeping each other.

In Luther's Small Catechism, one learns the explanation of the 5<sup>th</sup> commandment, "Thou Shalt Not Kill." Luther teaches, "We should fear and love God so that we do not hurt or harm our neighbor in his body but help and support him in every physical need."

Cain did not help and support Abel. Cain murdered Abel. Cain bludgeoned Abel with a rock.

Throughout the Scriptures one reads of the same kind of hatred and rejection. 1 John 3:11-15 says, “This is the message you heard from the beginning: We should love one another. Do not be like Cain who belonged to the evil one and murdered his brother. And why did he murder him? Because his own actions were evil and his brother’s actions were righteous. Do not be surprised, my brothers, if the world hates you. We know that we have passed from death to life, because we love our brothers and sisters. Anyone who does not love remains in death.”

A dictionary definition translates the word hatred as strong dislike or ill will. Synonyms include loathing, detestation, abhorrence, hostility, aversion, enmity, animosity, antagonism, bitterness, revulsion, disgust, and contempt.

To best understand hatred and rejection study and meditate God’s hatred. 1 John 4:8 says, “God is love.” But God also hates. God hates and rejects sin. God hates sin the way any father or mother hates whatever threatens the life of his child – a rattlesnake and an intruder in the home, for instance. Sin hurts God’s children and so God hates sin.

Proverbs 6:16-19 says, “Six things the Lord hates, yes, even seven are an abomination to Him: A proud look, a lying tongue, hands that shed innocent blood, a heart that devises wicked plans, feet that are swift to evil, a false witness who speaks lies, and one who sows discord among brethren.”

God hates sin. God hates Satan. In Genesis 3:15ff, God says, “I will put enmity between you, Satan, and the woman, and between your offspring and hers; He, Jesus, will crush your head and you will bruise His heel.”

God will put hatred, enmity, between the woman and her offspring and Satan. This enmity is Jesus. Jesus will crush Satan. And Satan will bruise

Jesus' heel. He won't kill Jesus. He won't destroy Jesus. But Jesus will be bruised.

Jesus will be hated and rejected. Jesus will experience the punishment and consequence that sin manifests. Jesus will be separated from His Father. Jesus will be separated from those He came to save. Jesus will be hated and rejected by God. Jesus will be hated and rejected by those He came to save.

Jesus is the **scapegoat**. In the Bible, a scapegoat is an animal that is ritually burdened with the sins of others, and then driven away into the wilderness. The ritual first appears in Leviticus, in which a goat is designated to be cast into the dessert to carry away the sins of the community.

Leviticus 16:21-22 says, "Then Aaron shall lay both his hands on the head of the live goat, and confess over it all the iniquities of the people of Israel, and all their transgressions, all their sins, putting them on the head of the goat, and sending it away into the wilderness by means of someone designated for the task. The goat shall bear for itself all their iniquities to a barren region; and the goat shall be set free in the wilderness."

In the same way the scapegoat of the Old Testament bore the sins of the people, Jesus bears the iniquities, transgressions, and sins of all people. Jesus is the scapegoat. Jesus is then led away to bear the sins, transgressions, and iniquities alone. He is hated and rejected in His loathsome state. God hates sin. And His Son, Jesus, is hated for the sins He bears.

From the moment Jesus was born He was unwanted. Luke 2:7 states that There was no room in the Inn, so Jesus was born in a stable and lain in a manger. Jesus was wrapped in flesh and already identified with the sins of mankind.

John 1:10-11 says, “He was in the world, and though the world was made through Him, the world did not recognize Him. He came to that which was His own, but His own would not receive Him.”

In Matthew 13:55, the townspeople object that Jesus could be the Son of God and the Christ. They cry out in disdain, “Isn’t this the carpenter’s son? Isn’t his mother’s name Mary, and aren’t his brothers James, Joseph, Simon, and Judas (not Iscariot, who would betray Him)?

In John 6:60ff, Jesus is preaching and the people are offended by His message. They object saying, “This is a hard teaching. Who can accept it.” Jesus was aware that the disciples were grumbling against him. From that moment, many of his disciples turned back and no longer followed Him.

In the Passion narratives of Matthew, Mark, Luke, and John, we learn that Judas betrayed Jesus. Peter denied Jesus. Thomas would doubt Jesus even with those who testified to seeing Jesus. And the other nine would abandon Jesus. Within one hour of receiving the Sacrament of the Lord’s Supper, the disciples fell asleep while Jesus prayed, even while he had asked them to stay awake.

When Jesus was on the cross, the crowd mocked and ridiculed Jesus, recalling how He had said that if they destroyed the temple He could rebuild it again. “Those who passed by hurled insults at Jesus, shaking their heads and saying, “So! You who are going to destroy the temple and build it in three days, come down from the cross and save yourself!” (Mark 15:29-30).

Isaiah 53:3-4 prophesy the suffering of Jesus, God’s Messiah. Jesus, God’s Son, will be hated and rejected. He will be stricken, smitten, and afflicted.