

## ATONEMENT, Part 1

Isaiah 53:3-12

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History is one of the greatest resources available to us today. We have the opportunity to learn from and, in a sense, interact with anyone who has ever lived. I particularly love history because I can be mentored and taught by the greatest minds that have ever existed. I love reading Jonathan Edwards, C.S. Lewis, Martin Luther, John Owen, Charles Spurgeon, and so many more. We also have the opportunity to look back through the tunnel of time at the great cause and effect relationships that changed the face of the world in which we live. We can look back at the protestant reformation or the civil rights movements and see these incredible ripples that are still being assimilated today.

What we celebrate this weekend has had a greater impact on our world than any other occurrence since the creation of the world. Further, the reality of what we celebrate this weekend is the center of Christianity. Without the death and resurrection of Jesus Christ we have no Christianity. Paul writes in 1 Corinthians 15:12-20, *"Now if Christ is proclaimed as raised from the dead, how can some of you say that there is no resurrection of the dead? But if there is no resurrection of the dead, then not even Christ has been raised. And if Christ has not been raised then our preaching is in vain and your faith is in vain."* The reality of His death and resurrection is the hard line between us and almost every other religion that exists. Our commitment to the death and resurrection of Jesus Christ necessitates Him being more than just a good man. It necessitates Him being more than just another prophet. It necessitates Him being greater than Joseph Smith, Mohammed, or any other religious icon.

I am not one of these hard line pastors who prays that God reigns down his hand of wrath on all of the bunnies of America. I do not see where the bunnies have done anything wrong. Matter of fact, I used to own one and she never did anything wrong aside from the fact that she didn't like to relieve herself inside of her cage – she preferred to function more like water gun irrigating our little apartment in which we lived. However, I do believe that all we do this weekend can become a distraction. It can remove our minds from the enormity of what took place 2000 years ago on the cross as a poor man hung to die for mistakes that he never made.

Why? Why did he have to die? Was there not some other way... why did he have to die in the most violent and humiliating way imaginable? Why did it have to be this way? We will find those answers this morning in a text that was written at least 700 years before it all happened. The beauty of the Old and New Testaments are the force that they create when one confirms the other as they always do. Let's take a look at this beautiful text where we will find not only a picture of the cross but one of the resurrection as well.

We will begin in Isaiah 53:3 and there is not time today for me to build a case for who Isaiah is referring to throughout this passage. We are going to take the word of Paul and Peter as they tell us throughout the New Testament that Isaiah's Suffering Servant is in reference to Jesus. There are also gallons of ink that have been given to discussing what

this meant to those who heard it in its own day. I would love to talk about this but not today – come see me and we will dive into this over coffee or something.

Why did Jesus die?

1. (4) to borne our griefs
2. (4) to carry our sorrows
3. (5) to be wounded for our transgressions
4. (5) to be crushed for our iniquities
5. (5) to bring us peace
6. (5) so that we might be healed
7. (6) to take on our iniquity
8. (8) he had to be stricken for our transgressions
9. (9) he had done no violence or deceit (He was the only one!)

Why did Jesus rise?

1. (10) so he can see his offspring
2. (10) so he could prolong his days
3. (10) so the will of the Lord would prosper
4. (11) so he might see and be satisfied
5. (11) so that we might be accounted righteous
6. (12) to make intercession for the transgressors

This historical event radically changed time for eternity. Some of you may be wrestling with this for the first time and the fact that He died as a substitute for you in order to pay for your transgressions is just mind-boggling. He did this so that you might experience the indescribable joy of living a life reconciled with our creator. Paul writes that this is a gift given freely to us apart from anything we have done. We accept this gift by believing in this grand history-changing story – and committing our lives to knowing him as deeply as we possibly can.

Those of us who call ourselves Christ followers often feel like we know this story and we really have no need of hearing it again. We are so, so very wrong! This is your story, if you are truly committed to following Him. This is the story of your life – why you are here and why you do everything that you do. This is the centerpiece of your life and there is nothing more important than this story. We would do well to be reminded of it every single day of our lives.