# Man Of Sorrows

Prepared by Nathan L Morrison for Sunday April 9th, 2023

Text: Isaiah 52-53

## Intro

1. Last time we looked at the three sections of Isaiah dealing with the “Suffering Servant” that prepare us for Isaiah 53, and in this lesson we will look at the fourth section that reveals why He had to suffer.
2. The Suffering Servant in Isaiah:
3. **The Servant Has A Mission (Isaiah 42:1-7)**
4. **The Servant Has Great Difficulties In His Mission (Isaiah 49:1-7)**

### **The Servant Will Suffer (Isaiah 50:4-10)**

1. The third section (Isaiah 50) told us He would suffer but did not give a reason why. We are not left in the dark to wonder about it when we get to this point as the Spirit reveals it to us in *Isaiah 52-53.*
   1. Isaiah 53 has often been called the “Suffering Servant” passage, or “Man of Sorrows.”
   2. Isaiah 53:5-6: We get the picture of the ultimate suffering and sacrifice.

### It is the fourth in a series of passages dealing with “the Servant of the Lord.”

### The gospel writers identify Jesus of Nazareth as fulfilling these verses.

* 1. We are given a view of His life and character in the days of His flesh, His tenderness as well as His power, and the great deliverance He would bring, not only for the Jews, but also for the entire world.

1. ‘Hallelujah! What A Savior! (1875) by Philip P. Bliss (1838-1876)
   1. Philip Paul Bliss was a traveling music teacher.
   2. He became well-known as a hymnist.
   3. Shortly before he died he became a full-time evangelist (Presbyterian).
   4. A month before he died he sang his hymn, “Hallelujah! What A Savior!” to inmates at the Michigan State Prison. (No background story is known on the hymn)
   5. He and his wife, Lucy, were in a tragic train wreck in 1876. Bliss initially survived but went back in to save his wife. Both perished.
   6. The hymn he left behind reminds us of the Suffering Servant, the “Man of Sorrows” from Isaiah 53 and the reason He would suffer!
2. The Suffering Servant had to suffer to take away the sins of the world!
3. **The Servant Suffers For Sin (Isaiah 52:13—53:12)**
   * + 1. **Isaiah 52:13:** The Servant will be “high and lifted up and greatly exalted,” which speaks of three stages of His exaltation (“Now in Heav’n exalted high” – Stanza 4):
   1. Resurrection (Rom. 1:3-4)
   2. Ascension (Acts 1:9)
   3. Seated at the right hand of God (Acts 2:33; Heb. 1:3)
      * 1. **Isaiah 52:14; 53:5:** “His visage was marred more than any man.”
4. Pilate ordered Christ to be scourged. (Mt. 27:26; Mk. 15:15; Lk. 18:31-33: foretold by Jesus!; Jn. 19:1) – “Bearing shame and scoffing rude, In my place condemned He stood!” (Stanza 2)
   1. Christ was not whipped, flogged or striped—He was scourged!
   2. The Romans called it “halfway death.”
   3. A scourging could only be administered by a trained Roman “Lictor.”
5. Roman Scourge: The victim was stripped of all clothing and His hands tied above His head.
   1. The *flagellum* was a leather whip made with thongs of leather.
   2. Each strip had a piece of bone or lead tied to the ends so it would cut deeper into the flesh—the Romans did not have a limit to how many stripes could be administered.
   3. The Roman scourge was designed to tear open the flesh & expose the insides.
   4. Josephus speaks of the atrocities the Romans carried out against the Jews when they destroyed Jerusalem (AD 70) as scourging them, then crucifying them while still alive, and most of them were nailed to the crosses out of jest. *(Josephus, Antiquity Book 12, Ch. 5.4)*
   5. Josephus speaks of some rebels who were “whipped till every one of their inward parts appeared naked.” *(Josephus, Wars Book 2, Ch. 21.5)*
   6. He also speaks of a man named Ananus whose son was “whipped till his bones were laid bare.” *(Josephus, Wars Book 6, Ch. 5.3)*
   7. As terrible as Josephus made that sound, Jesus suffered that!
   8. Many people died just from the scourge alone!
6. “By His scourging we are healed.” (Isaiah 53:5)
   1. The soldiers hit Him and smote Him with a reed, which served as a mock scepter (Mt. 27:27-31).
   2. His thorn crowned brow caused His features to be hidden.
   3. “I can count all My bones. They look and stare at Me” (Ps. 22:17).
   4. That describes the kind of torment the Roman scourge inflicted.
   5. His blood needed to be shed for forgiveness! (I Pet. 2:24: By His wounds we are healed; Heb. 10:4, 10, 12, 14: He sacrificed once for all time!)
7. The Servant will not remain in humiliation *(Phil. 2:9-11; Acts 3:13-15, 26).*
   * + 1. **Isaiah 52:15:** He would “sprinkle” many nations.
8. This is a technical word used of the priests *(Lev. 14:7a; 14:6; 8:11).*
9. The purpose of sprinkling was not decontamination, but to obtain ritual purity; hence, the one who does the sprinkling had to be pure.
10. This is indicative of Christ fulfilling the promise to Abraham to bless all the nations *(Gal. 3:8-14)*
    * + 1. **Isaiah 53:1-2:** Men would entirely misjudge Him – wouldn’t understand His mission
11. There was no physical beauty that drew others to Him *(Jn. 12:32: His death would draw)*
12. Men hid their face from Him—they regarded Him as nothing.
13. Men didn’t understand His mission!
    * + 1. **Isaiah 53:3-4:** “He was despised and forsaken of men, a man of sorrows and acquainted with grief.” “Man of Sorrows!” what a name…Ruined sinners to reclaim” (Stanza 1)
    1. His teachings were met with resistance and rejection (Jn. 12:48)
    2. At knowing what would befall Him by His own people He was “grieved and distressed” *(Mt. 26:37-38).*
    3. They sought the release of Barabbas, an insurrectionist and murderer, over Jesus, an innocent man – *Lk. 23:17-25*
       * 1. **Isaiah 53:5:** The words “pierced” (KJV: “wounded”) and “crushed” (KJV: “bruised”) are strong terms to describe a violent and agonizing death. (“Lifted up was He to die” – Stanza 4)
14. Pierced: *châlal [khaw-lal'] (H2490):* “to wound, to slay, to put to pain, to pierce”
15. Crushed: *dâkâ' [daw-kaw'] (H1792):* “to bruise (literally or figuratively): - beat to pieces, break (in pieces), bruise, contrite, crush, destroy, humble, oppress, smite.
16. There is a stress on the “our” in both statements: The reason for the Servant of the Lord’s suffering is revealed: for our sins!
17. His “scourging” is mentioned in *I Peter 2:24* and His shed blood healed us!
18. “Crucifixion was a Roman, not a Jewish, form of punishment. It was usually preceded by scourging, which, carried out thoroughly, left the body a mass of swollen and bloody flesh ... All who cared to witness the horrible spectacle were free to do so; the Romans, who thought it necessary to rule by terror, chose, for capital offenses by other than Roman citizens, what Cicero called 'the most cruel and hideous of tortures.' The offender's hands and feet were bound (seldom nailed) to the wood; a projecting block supported the backbone or the feet; unless mercifully killed, the victim would linger there for two or three days, suffering the agony of immobility, unable to brush away the insects that fed upon his naked flesh, and slowly losing strength until the heart failed and brought an end. Even the Romans sometimes pitied the victim, and offered him a stupefying drink.” (Will Durant, *Caesar And Christ, p.* 572).
    1. The Roman cross was shaped like a capital “T.”
    2. The crossbeam *(patibulum)* weighed about 100 pounds—it was tied across His shoulders and He was led out of the gates of Jerusalem (Heb. 13:12).
19. The procession with Jesus and the two thieves would have been led by a Roman Centurion towards the place of the crucifixion.
    1. Despite His efforts to walk erect He falls from the weight, all the while bleeding.
    2. The Romans compel Simon of Cyrene to carry the cross the rest of the way from the Fortress Antonia to Calvary (Lk. 23:26).
20. Golgotha, the “place of the skull” (Lk. 23:33):
    1. The cross beam is attached to the main beam.
    2. Jesus is thrown back onto the rough wood and spikes are driven into His hands.
    3. His feet are pressed together against the wood and a nail is driven in.
    4. Then the cross is set in the hole, usually not gently.
       * 1. **Isaiah 53:6:** The reason for His sufferings is *our sins!* (“Guilty, vile, and helpless we; Spotless Lamb of God was He” – Stanza 3; Jn. 1:29)
            1. His friends left him when He needed them most *(Mk. 14:50-52)* but even though they scattered, He bore our sins in His body and brought us back to God! *(Eph. 2:13-16; I Pet. 2:21-24)*
         2. **Isaiah 53:7-8:** Oppressed & afflicted (Jn. 10:15-18; Heb. 12:2-3). (“Sealed my pardon with His blood” – Stanza 2)
    5. The scene passes to the unrighteous judicial verdict passed upon Him, and from there to the cross on Calvary.
    6. Jesus agonized on the cross for 6 hours before dying (Mk. 15:25, 34, 37).
       1. Could have called more than twelve legions of angels *(Mt. 26:53).*
    7. Slain for the transgression of the people, to whom the stroke was due (Isaiah 53:8).
21. So powerful was His death, a Roman Centurion exclaimed, “Truly this man was the Son of God!” *(Mk. 15:39)*
22. Heb. 12:1-3: For the “joy set before Him” He endured the cross and sat down at the right hand of God! The “joy” before Him was the redemption of mankind *(Eph. 1:7)!*
    * + 1. **Isaiah 53:9:** “They made His grave with the wicked—but with the rich at His death” refers to the intention of the government to give Him a state burial since He was crucified between two thieves (Mk. 15:27), but Joseph of Arimathea was granted His body *(Mt. 27:57).*
        2. **Isaiah 53:10-12:** The Hope and Majesty that came from His sorrows
23. Forgiveness of sin (Jn. 1:29; Eph. 1:7)
24. Spiritual posterity (“He shall see His offspring”) – Rom. 8:14-17: Adopted as sons!
25. “Made intercession for the transgressors” (Lk. 23:34; Heb. 7:25)
26. He rose from the dead the 3rd day to live forever and is highly exalted. At His name every knee will bow and every tongue will confess Jesus as Lord (Is. 52:13; Phil. 2:8-11; Heb. 12:2)
27. He established the throne of David forever *(II Sam. 7:12-16; Acts 2:29-32; Heb. 1:3)*
    * + 1. The “Man of Sorrows” had a mission, would have difficulties and suffering in carrying out that mission, but prevailed and redeemed mankind from their sins and now sits on His throne forever at the right hand of God!

##### Conclusion

* 1. It is exciting to see the prophecy concerning Jesus’ suffering and purpose come to pass, knowing this is what the Ethiopian Eunuch was studying, and what Philip taught him when he “preached Jesus to him” *(Acts 8:35).*
     1. The fruits and end of the Suffering Servant were the complete reverse of what anyone would have expected.
     2. No prediction could have seemed more improbable, and yet none was ever fulfilled so completely.
  2. The hope for today: The empty tomb! (Luke 24:1-7)
     1. Jesus died a Servant, was raised in power, and reigns with ALL authority in heaven and earth, and will one day return to judge the nations as a Mighty King! *(Mt. 25:31-46; 28:18-20; Rev. 19:16)*
     2. “When He comes, our glorious King, All His ransomed home to bring” – Stanza 5
  3. This study of the Son of God *(From Isaiah 53)* converted a Jewish proselyte on his way back to Ethiopia *(Acts 8:36-39),* and has continued to change lives since!
  4. What change will it affect in your life? Let us shout, “Hallelujah! What a Savior!”
  5. Jesus Christ (the Man of Sorrows, the Suffering Servant) died for your sins! Have you obeyed the gospel?
  6. If not a Christian, you need to be. Confess your sins, repent of them and be baptized into Christ!
  7. If a Christian in error, now is the time to make it right! Repent & be renewed!
  8. Whatever your requests, let them be made know ***NOW*** while we stand & sing!

<http://franklin-church.org/articles/hymn-studies/81-hallelujah-what-a-savior>

<http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Philip_Bliss>

*Then Sings My Soul, Book 2*, p. 152-155 by Robert J. Morgan

**“HALLELUJAH! WHAT A SAVIOR!” (1875)**

By Philip Paul Bliss (1838-1876)



“He is a man of sorrows, and acquainted with grief” (Isa. 53.3)

A hymn which identifies Christ as the fulfillment of Isaiah's prophecy concerning the Suffering Servant, the “Man of Sorrows” and all that befell Him is “Hallelujah! What A Savior!” Both the text was written and the tune was composed by Philip Paul Bliss (1838-1876). No information is available concerning any background story for this hymn.

In 1858, in Rome, PA, Bliss met Lucy J. Young, whom he married on June 1, 1859. She came from a musical family and encouraged the development of his talent. She was a Presbyterian, and Bliss converted to her faith.

At age 22, Bliss became a traveling music teacher. On horseback, he went from community to community accompanied by a button accordion. Lucy’s grandmother lent Bliss $30 so he could attend the Normal Academy of Music of New York for six weeks. Bliss became recognized as an expert within his local area. He continued the itinerant (traveling) teaching.

At this time he turned to composition. None of his songs were ever copyrighted!

In 1864 when he was 26, the Blisses moved to Chicago. He became known as a singer and teacher. He wrote a number of Gospel songs. Bliss was paid $100 for a concert tour which lasted only two weeks. He was amazed so much money could be earned so quickly. The following week, he was drafted for service in the Union Army. Because the war was almost over, his notice was canceled after a few weeks. The unit he served with was the 149th Pennsylvania Infantry.

In 1869, Bliss formed an association with Dwight L. Moody. Moody and others urged him to give up his job and become a missionary singer. In 1874, Bliss decided he was called to the task of “winning souls” and then became a full-time evangelist. Bliss made significant amounts of money from royalties and gave them to charity and to support his evangelical endeavors.

In 1870 Bliss wrote the gospel song “Hold the Fort” after hearing revival evangelist Major Daniel Webster Whittle narrate an experience in the American Civil War. As a song director for Maj. Daniel W. Whittle (beginning in 1871), Bliss provided music for texts by others, such as “I Gave My Life for Thee” (1858: Frances R. Havergal) and “It Is Well With My Soul” (1873: Horatio Spafford), and also produced both text and tune for several songs of his own, such as “Almost Persuaded,” “Let The Lower Lights Be Burning” and “Wonderful Words of Life.” “Hallelujah! What A Savior!” was first published in the “International Lessons Monthly” during 1875. Its first hymnbook inclusion was in “Gospel Hymns No. 2” of 1876. Just a month before his death he visited and conducted a service for inmates at the Michigan State Prison and sang, “Hallelujah! What A Savior!”

In 1873 he composed the music for Horatio Spafford’s “It Is Well,” a hymn that stemmed from Spafford’s loss of his four daughters who perished when their ship sank.

On 29 December 1876, the Pacific Express train on which Bliss and his wife were traveling in approached Ashtabula, Ohio. While the train was in the process of crossing a trestle bridge, which collapsed, all the carriages fell into the ravine below. Bliss initially survived and escaped from the wreck. According to eye-witnesses, upon discovering his wife still inside and the carriages had caught fire, Bliss crawled through a window to save his wife. Both perished together. Ninety-two of the one hundred and sixty passengers are believed to have died in what became known as the “Ashtabula River Railroad Disaster.”

The Blisses were survived by their two sons, George (Age 4) and Philip Paul (Age 1). In 1876, at the age of 38, Bliss was already considered as one of the greatest hymnists of his generation. A monument to Bliss was erected in Rome, Pennsylvania (1878).

Found in his trunk, which somehow survived the crash and fire, was a manuscript bearing the lyrics of the only well-known Bliss Gospel song for which he did not write a tune. Soon thereafter, set to a tune specially written for it by James McGranahan, it became one of the first songs recorded by Thomas Alva Edison, that song being “I Will Sing of My Redeemer” (1876).

**Lyrics:**

1. “Man of Sorrows!” what a name For the Son of God, who came,

Ruined sinners to reclaim. Hallelujah! What a Savior!

1. Bearing shame and scoffing rude, In my place condemned He stood;

Sealed my pardon with His blood. Hallelujah! What a Savior!

1. Guilty, vile, and helpless we; Spotless Lamb of God was He;

“Full atonement!” can it be? Hallelujah! What a Savior!

1. Lifted up was He to die; “It is finished!” was His cry;

Now in Heav’n exalted high. Hallelujah! What a Savior!

1. When He comes, our glorious King, All His ransomed home to bring,

Then anew His song we’ll sing: Hallelujah! What a Savior!